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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/017,295	02/02/1998	TOSHIAKI IGARASHI	862.2098	8124
5514 7590 09/24/2007 FITZPATRICK CELLA HARPER & SCINTO 30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA NEW YORK, NY 10112				
			EXAMINER STRANGE, AARON N	
			ART UNIT 2153	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 09/24/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/017,295

Applicant(s)

IGARASHI ET AL.

Examiner

Aaron Strange

Art Unit

2153

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 June 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 60, 62, 64-69, 74, 75, 77-79, 84, 85 and 87-96 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 60, 62, 64-69, 74, 75, 77-79, 84, 85 and 87-96 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. The Examiner would like to note that the present application has been reassigned to a new Examiner.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments, see Remarks filed 6/28/2007, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1-3, 60, 62, 64-69, 74, 75, 77-79, 84, 85 and 87-99 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection has been made, as set forth below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-3, 60, 62, 64-69, 74, 75, 77, 84, 85 and 87-96 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Farrand et al. (US 5,559,958) in view of "Windows 95 printer driver operation manual" (The '95 Manual).

5. With regard to claim 1, Farrand discloses a displaying method, of acquiring information related to a selected network device of a plurality of network devices, and displaying acquired information of the selected network device; said method comprising:

a device window display step of displaying a device window allocated to the selected network device (fig. 11; col. 196, ll. 57-64), the device window having a first sheet (environment subsystem GUI)(fig. 12), a second sheet (disk storage subsystem)(fig. 13), and a designation portion for selecting either the first sheet or the second sheet (device management window)(fig. 11), wherein the sheet selected by the designation portion is visible while the other sheet is invisible (only one subsystem GUI is visible at a time) (figs. 11-13) (col. 198, ll. 39-46),

and wherein the first sheet defines items to be displayed as first partial sheet information (first sheet displays information relating to environment only)(col. 198, ll. 4-16) and the second sheet defines items to be displayed as second partial sheet information (second sheet displays information relating to disk storage only)(col. 200, ll. 6-11), and the items to be displayed as the first partial sheet information on the first sheet and the items to be displayed as the second partial sheet information on the second sheet are different from each other and are managed as an MIB (Managed Information Base) by the selected network device (col. 3, l. 66 to col. 4, l. 6);

a first acquiring step of acquiring the first partial sheet information related to the selected network device, by communicating with the selected network device using SNMP (Simple Network Management Protocol), via a network (col. 8, ll. 16-20);

a first partial sheet information display step of displaying the first partial sheet information, acquired in said first acquiring step, on the first sheet of the device window as the initial display, wherein the first partial sheet information is part of information related to the selected network device (acquired information is displayed in the appropriate sheet)(figs. 11-13; col. 198, ll. 4-16; col. 200, ll. 6-11);

a second acquiring step of acquiring the second partial sheet information related to the selected network device, by communicating with the selected network device using SNMP, via the network in response to a user's selection of the second sheet by using the designation portion (the information may be dynamically retrieved when requested) (col. 3, l. 66 to col. 4, l. 6; col. 39, ll. 35-40); and

a second partial sheet information display step of displaying the second partial sheet information, acquired in said second acquiring step, on the second sheet of the device window, wherein the second partial sheet information is part of information related to the selected network device (acquired information is displayed in the appropriate sheet)(figs. 11-13; col. 198, ll. 4-16; col. 200, ll. 6-11).

Farrand fails to specifically disclose that the managed network devices are printing apparatuses or that the sheets are displayed in a tabbed format such that one can be selected while another remains visible. The '95 Manual teaches retrieval and display of information about printers in a tabbed format, enabling a user to select one information sheet while another is still visible (pp. 19-23). This type of display was notoriously well known in the art at the time the invention was made and had several known benefits, such as permitting a user to quickly navigate back and forth between

multiple sheets of information without requiring them to exit a sheet to view a different sheet.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to permit collection of information about printers in addition to other network devices and display the collected information in a tabbed format to permit users to quickly and easily navigate between the various sheets of information about a managed device.

6. With regard to claim 60, Farrand further discloses that said first partial sheet information display step includes forming a list of information required for display of the first sheet, acquiring listed information, and storing the acquired first partial sheet information in a memory (when a user selects a subsystem, the appropriate information is retrieved and stored)(col. 8, ll. 16-20; col. 39, ll. 35-40; col. 197, ll. 11-14).

7. With regard to claim 62, Farrand further discloses that said second partial sheet information display step includes forming a list of information required for display of the second sheet, acquiring listed information, and storing the acquired second partial sheet information in a memory (when a user selects a subsystem, the appropriate information is retrieved and stored)(col. 8, ll. 16-20; col. 39, ll. 35-40; col. 197, ll. 11-14).

8. With regard to claim 64, Farrand further discloses a determination step of determining whether information is to be acquired from the selected printing apparatus

or a memory storing information acquired from the selected printing apparatus (information can be dynamically retrieved or polled periodically and stored locally)(col. 39, ll. 30-40).

9. With regard to claim 65, Farrand further discloses that said first partial sheet information display step or said second partial sheet information display step includes acquiring information from the selected printing apparatus, if it is determined that information is to be acquired from the selected printing apparatus, or acquiring information from the memory, if it is determined that information, is to be acquired from the memory (information can be dynamically retrieved or polled periodically and stored locally)(col. 39, ll. 30-40).

10. With regard to claim 66, the '95 Manual further discloses that said second partial sheet information display step is executed if a tab, as the designation portion, is clicked on a device window (discussed above with regard to claim 1; clicking on a tab causes the sheet associated with that tab to be displayed).

11. With regard to claim 67, Farrand and the '95 Manual further disclose that the first sheet is a screen that displays a status of the selected printing apparatus, a screen that displays a list of jobs, a screen that displays a manufacturer, a product name, an installation location, a product version, or a toner cartridge model, or a screen that displays information about a network interface board or information about a network

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protocol (Farrand teaches display of status information; col. 198, ll. 4-16; col. 200, ll. 6-11)(The '95 Manual discloses printer specific display, including status information)(p. 21).

12. With regard to claim 68, Farrand and the '95 Manual further disclose that the second sheet is a screen that displays a status of the selected printing apparatus, a screen that displays a list of jobs, a screen that displays a manufacturer, a product name, an installation location, a product version, or a toner cartridge model, or a screen that displays information about a network interface board or information about a network protocol (Farrand teaches display of status information; col. 198, ll. 4-16; col. 200, ll. 6-11)(The '95 Manual discloses printer specific display, including status information)(p. 21).

13. With regard to claim 69, Farrand and the '95 Manual further discloses a search step of searching for network devices connected to a network and displaying a list of the network devices, wherein said first partial sheet information display step is executed when one of the network devices on the list is selected by a user (devices are searched for and presented in a list to the user, who may select one of them to manage, causing the management screen to display) (col. 195, l. 41 to col. 196, l. 23). The '95 Manual discloses printing apparatuses specifically, as discussed above with regard to claim 1.

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14. Claims 2, 3, 74, 75, 77, 84, 85 and 87-96 are rejected under the same rationale as claims 1, 630, 62 and 64-69, since they recite substantially identical subject matter. Any differences between the claims do not result in patentably distinct claims and all of the limitations are taught by the above cited art.


Conclusion

15. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Aaron Strange whose telephone number is 571-272-3959. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glen Burgess can be reached on 571-272-3949. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

AS 9/10/07


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